



A C O R N



ACORN II - 2

SUMMER 1977

The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario R Newsletter

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The Cover

THE DON JAIL

Toronto

The Don Jail is now entering the second decade of its second century, but its days as a penal institution finally appear to be numbered. According to the most recent information received from the Ministry of Correctional Services personnel, it is likely to be replaced by new facilities, scheduled for construction elsewhere early in the 1990's.

The rehousing of the jail's inmates in more appropriate accommodation will be welcomed by everyone. However, it is to be hoped that the current exposure which the old jail is experiencing in the news media will also reveal for public view the significance of this building as an architectural landmark.

(See Howard Walker article under Toronto Branch News)

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

We feel we must begin this editorial with a 'thank you' to those readers who wrote such kind letters to us about ACORN II - 1. When the importance of ACORN is stressed so often, one is more than a little fearful of letting down the organization. These letters were reassuring and greatly appreciated.

A 'thank you' is also given to the Branch Editors for sending in material. Please keep the copy coming.

As to the Contributing Editor, we need only say that without him we would not have as wide-spread a coverage, nor indeed, would we have an ACORN.

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Regarding the painting of early Galt mentioned in ACORN II - 1, we received a request for a photograph of same from the local history librarian for the Cambridge Central Library. They wanted it for their exhibition of historical pictures at the library to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the naming of Galt. Consequently the picture was taken to a photographer in Cobourg, frame and all, photographed, returned to its place on the wall. A week later the finished photo was collected, and Cambridge has its copy, a very fine reproduction.

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An interesting letter was received from Mr. Meredith Fleming in answer to our inquiry with regard to the Pontypool station. He mentions that he is reasonably certain that the station was built around 1887 at the time the railway, then known as the Ontario and Quebec, was laid through Pontypool. A further note re the station is in the Port Hope Branch News.

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We welcome a new branch, Brant County. The editor is Pennie Pettitt.

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Our very sincere thanks to the Cambridge Branch for setting up a meeting place for the ACORN Editors and entertaining them so handsomely on May 28.

M.W.G.

The Architectural Conservancy of Ontario is deeply grateful to the Ontario Heritage Foundation for its recent grant towards the continuing publication of ACORN.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Here is a *brief* message from the President.

Although Ontario has perhaps the most liberal (despite the present Progressive Conservative government that seems to carry on despite elections) and exciting preservation legislation to be realized in Canada for some time, somewhere it seems to be faltering, somehow it does not appear to be working with the vim and vigour it should. Countless calls for help and advice are voiced, a great many projects seem to be in the exploratory stages, but too little seems to get off the ground. Enthusiasm for preservation is being dampened by delay. The usual bureaucracy is growing more complex to handle the load of applications — the predictable result is that the frustration of private individuals and small groups will ensue — only the government can outlast itself; Parkinson's Law is a law unto itself.

Let us hope that the spirit of the preservation legislation enacted as Bill 176 shall overcome the temporary bottlenecks and cut down the red tape mazes to give those with energy, effort, but not endless time on their hands to get ahead to preserve our heritage while the going is good. Sure the province should hold a watching brief, but as a first priority it should stimulate activity and guide those who act, simplifying wherever possible the procedures to make shorter work of the preliminaries. We know that some attempts are being made in this direction, but we wonder, for instance, why there has to be such a fantastic concentration on peripheral interests in creating Historic Conservation Districts just because these have to be registered as an amendment to an Official Plan for a community. Surely the criteria for such an area should be whether it contains a significant amount of heritage material either comprising examples of historic interest or architectural merit related to the particular community involved. Other considerations should be minor in comparison, and surely should only be noted where these might mitigate against conservation with a view to their being changed. Otherwise you might miss the boat in the planning escape — and planners, like architects, might lose sight of the nub of the matter — that heritage is to be conserved.

Well, anyway, we look forward to some relief — and offer the suggestion that the private sector and its consultants and hard workers are ever willing to relieve the government and the taxpayer of non-competitive public programmes.

Peter John Stokes

NEWS FROM EAST TO WEST

From the Branches

PORT HOPE

The Port Hope Branch was represented at Heritage Canada's Central Ontario Regional Council by Mrs. Garland on April 30 in Brighton.

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Donations Received for the Little Bluestone Fund

Miss B. E. Stewart, Toronto
Mr. Rafe Currelly, Canton,
Mrs. Marion Walker Garland, Port Hope

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Seneca College Tour of Port Hope

On May 8, a bus load of achitectural students from Seneca College were given a tour of Port Hope. Highlights such as the six-sided and the eight-sided house were pointed out, as well as the Bluestone and the Little Bluestone, The Cone, and other board and batten houses, Regency cottages, Gothic cottages, and the town's mid-nineteenth century main street.

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Inventory of Buildings

The Canadian Inventory of Historic Buildings which was done several years ago in Port Hope proved to have inaccuracies in the dates, and it was decided to re-do it, this time by members of the Conservancy. Before starting, a workshop will be held to instruct those participating, in the correct method.

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Hasti-notes

Hasti-notes have been produced from the drawing of The Little Bluestone as it could look after restoration. The drawing is by David Lane. The notes will sell at ten for \$1.50 in the advance sales. The price may go up later!

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OBIT

So Be It

The illustration of 121 Walton Street, Port Hope, shows the essential features of sash, shutters, and door restored to the building — all else remained on the exterior. The interior, though obviously altered probably later in the 19th century, still contained some architectural detail. The structure appeared to be sound, proof being that not a crack or defacement was seen after the adjoining house at 119 to the left, (shown in ghost form in the sketch), formerly the office



of Dr. Ross Richardson, one time president of Port Hope Branch of A. C. O. had the front blown into the street by a gas explosion in 1975. Despite a report at the time, on behalf of those interested in preserving this structure, which stated that the building was a suitable candidate for continued use with relatively minor rehabilitation, Bell Canada, the owner, elected to

tear it down. Another loss to the west hill end of Walton Street, now marked by a discreet mound of funereal foundation planting! (If you object — maybe you could— call Bell collect?)

P.J.S.

The above loss was occasioned two years ago, and thus was missed in the earlier issue of Acorn. We feel that it is important enough to be mentioned here.

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Visit to Pontypool

(see also Pontypool in Around and About)

Subsequent to receiving a letter from a concerned citizen of Pontypool for help in saving the station, Architect David Lane and Mrs. Garland motored last March to that village. It was learned that the railway was offering it for one dollar to anyone who would remove it. Citizens were contacted, and suggestions offered as to the future use of this building: a senior citizens' hall, and a community centre. Apparently there was not enough money for the former, and the village already had a community hall. It seems that in a case such as this, the only way to save such a building is to have a strong citizens' committee where everyone works for the one cause.

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General Meeting

A general meeting was held on May 18. It was decided to hold a picnic in June, and Mrs. Sculthorpe kindly offered her home for the setting.

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Canada's 110'th birthday was celebrated by the Port Hope Branch's auction sale of antiques on July 2. Members as well as all premiers of the provinces were asked for donations. Mr. Ted Spenceley of Bethany, a retired auctioneer, donated his services. The auction was held in the bandshell with members of the executive aiding the auctioneer. The money raised will be added to the Little Bluestone fund as the Branch still hopes to buy the little Building in face of continuing difficulties.

Two bus tours of the town took place, with the president, Mrs. A. K. Sculthorpe, as guide.

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Bus Tour

On June 7th, St. Paul's United Church Women's group of Scarborough arrived at Penryn Park Country Club for coffee. The tour of Port Hope

started from there, and for two hours the president, Mrs. R.J.W. Sculthorpe, guided them in an historical and architectural tour of the town finishing at the town hall.

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Cambridge Council Meeting

On Saturday, May 28, the Council of A.C.O. met in Cambridge in the City Hall Council Chambers. At the same time the editorial staff held its meeting in another room of the building.

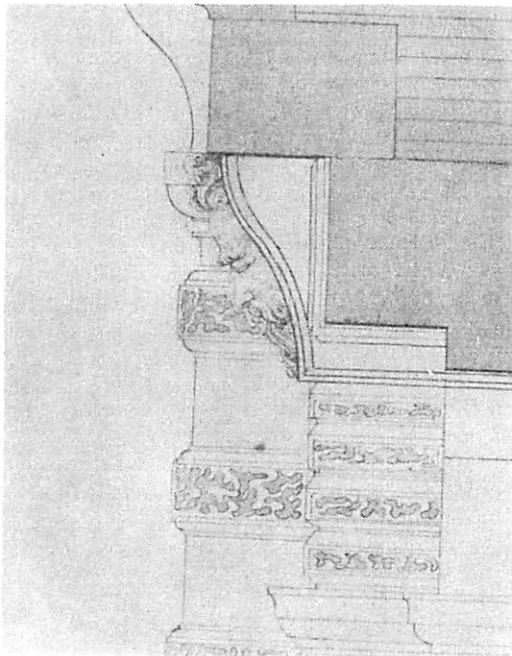
Members and their spouses were entertained at luncheon in Trinity Anglican Church Parish Hall by the Cambridge Branch. After a short tour of a school and several homes, guests were invited to tea at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Rosebrugh. Port Hope was represented by its president, Mrs. R. J. W. Sculthorpe, Mr. Sculthorpe, and Mrs. Garland.

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TORONTO

The Don Jail

The Don Jail was designed by William Thomas in 1859, one year before his passing, and opened in January 1864. Its completion was delayed by a fire which severely damaged construction in 1862.



One of the original working drawings for the main entrance to the Don Jail by William Thomas, showing a detailed cross-section through the archway and a side view of the carved head.

Credit - Archives, City of Toronto

The exterior displays a number of features commonly found in Thomas's classically oriented designs such as the rusticated and vermiculated stonework, the raised quoins and elevated orders, all of which give particular emphasis to the central administration section. The remainder of the building is in the 'white' Toronto brick which Thomas usually employed and helped to make popular. The carved mask over the arched entrance is one of the best of the many which embellish his buildings. Internally, the central portion contains an apse-shaped Hall which rises to the full height of the jail and originally was lighted by a fan-shaped skylight in addition to the present clerestory windows.



DETAIL OVER FRONT DOOR

Credit - Toronto Historical Branch

William Thomas was one of the most important architects in this country in the mid-nineteenth century, and with his sons had offices in Upper and Lower Canada and in Nova Scotia. In addition to the Don Jail, among his commissions are St. Lawrence Hall, the Commercial Bank and St. Michael's Cathedral in Toronto, many churches including St. Paul's, Hamilton, court houses in Halifax and Niagara-on-the-Lake, Guelph City Hall and the Brock Monument, Queenston. His remaining buildings display that skill and mastery which distinguished his work and ensure William Thomas a permanent place in our architectural history.

Fortunately, by virtue of its design and con-

struction, the Don Jail offers considerable potential for adaptation to new uses and now is the time for the Provincial Government to begin consideration of its future in these terms.

Howard V. Walker, Architect

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The Rosedale Building Study — (cont'd)

The principal goals of our study and the methods of implementing the research were outlined in Acorn I-3. Gradually information is being pieced together to present an overall picture of the development of the area. "Pieced together" is apt wording because the whole project can be likened to a giant cross word puzzle. Tracing the data on a house whose number has been changed three times, located on a street whose name has been changed twice, takes a certain amount of detective work! When a house has been completely classified as to date, original owner and architect it becomes a minor victory. Results such as linking of a group of houses to a builder or an architect, verifying that a builder has used a certain architect's plans, discovering the expropriation edict for parkland in the council minutes, finding a reference to Edgar John Jarvis (Rosedale's first developer), or interviewing his granddaughter — all of these bring a satisfaction balancing the project's inherent frustrations. Sometimes, when more information surfaces, one finds that certain facts in a newspaper clipping are perpetuated errors. That is an example of a frustration. The major one is realizing that if the work had been done twenty years ago, the time and effort would have been halved.

A greater part of Rosedale was developed in the years of the early evolution of the automobile. This creates its own chapter in the history. How do you shelter these new vehicles? What design and material do you use for the building? What do you name it? The architects of the first decades of the century pondered these challenging problems! Since a large part of Rosedale was affluent, its streets knew the vagaries of the unpredictable motor car before most sections of the city.

Residents also wrestled with the problem of additions to their homes. Will it be one or two storey, side or rear, billiard room, sunroom or verandah? Will we employ the original architect or employ "—" who is currently fashionable? Or would a building firm be able to produce an acceptable solution for less expenditure? A few of the streets in the northern part of the district have very modest homes. Often a home on one

of these streets would cost the same as the new addition to a house a few blocks away.

The most prestigious building in Rosedale required three years to build; 1912-1915. It was a masterpiece of the finest materials and testified to the skill of F. R. Heakes, the architect, and to the excellent taste of the government. Who then, could conceive that in 1977 school-children of the district would have to be told that the circular drive in Chorley Park is not nearly as unlikely as it would seem, because it once led to the Lieutenant-Governor's massive portecochere? They could be told that to step through the portal was to step into a circular marbled hall of great beauty. The ingredients for a modern fairy tale?

It would be easy to elaborate. Many of the guests at Government house were royalty. Sometimes they were entertained at Sir Edmund Osler's home across the ravine at Craighleigh. Oh no, his home isn't there now, either. It was demolished soon after he died. But when you walk through Craighleigh Park you can imagine that the house must have been quite elegant because the park is so beautiful. And the imposing ironwork gates are still there. We did save them to show you.

One could continue — you will cross the Glen Road Bridge between the two parks. Bridges were very important to Rosedale because houses could not be built until the land across the deep ravines was made accessible. At the south end of the bridge, pause a minute and try to imagine two huge houses and gardens on either side of the road, one of yellow brick, and one of red sandstone. Yes, that's right, where the apartment buildings are now and those sixteen houses that don't look as old as their neighbours — Great stuff for a fairy tale. But it isn't a fairy tale, it is all true. We are trying to record it now, before more of the story fades from reality into memory.

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The January meeting was mentioned in the Toronto Branch News in ACORN II-1. The following report came too late for the Spring issue, but it is much too interesting to miss. It was given in the Great Hall, a room designed by The Arts and Letters Club, when they moved their quarters to St. George's Hall. This building on Elm Street has served as headquarters for the St. George's Society since 1891.

Fancy Dress: Architecture and Costume

Our speakers for the evening were Alan Suddon and Douglas Richardson. Mr. Suddon is head of the Fine Art Department of the Metropolitan Toronto Central Library and editor of the newsletter of The Costume Society of Ontario. Douglas Richardson, an author and architectural historian, lectures at the University of Toronto.

They spoke in tandem and showed us the remarkable relationship that appears to have existed between costume and architecture in the eighteen hundreds. A simultaneous presentation of slides on two screens showed the fashions and buildings of the day throughout the century.

With each set of slides Mr. Suddon described the modesty or luxury of fashion while Mr. Richardson, in his turn, showed us a corresponding restraint or eccentricity in architectural design.

At the beginning of the century there was a basic thread of conservatism — the lines were calm and austere. Women's clothing was light in colour and texture and styled on the vertical draping of the surviving Greek and Roman statues, emphasized by the high waistline. This neo-classicism appeared in buildings also, and there was the frequent use of the Greek column to produce a slender profile. Both interiors and exteriors were light in colour, and there was a prevalence of white. Toronto's first neo-classic or temple-form building was "Castle Frank" in Rosedale.

In the second decade, the decorative eastern influence appeared. Turbans, oriental frogging, veils and shawls in the world of fashion were counterbalanced by Regency architecture as exemplified in the Royal Pavilion at Brighton, England, with its onion domes, minarets and awning-like roofs. The delicate filigree of wooden verandahs of Ontario houses gave this same nomadic feeling.

In the world of fashion during the romantic age, between 1820-1837, the bodice became more restrained, the waist normal, but skirts were flaring. There was a revival of the muff, sleeves were beginning to balloon and hats were immense, often smothered in feathers — the inspiration coming from the costumes of the Elizabethan period. Architecturally, the enlargement of a single detail to great proportions would serve as a badge of national pride.

At the end of the 1830's the age of sentimentality had arrived, and the huge sleeves and hats had disappeared. The silhouette showed a sloping shoulder line, a downward pointing waistline and drooping skirts. Milady was a modest, retiring

and docile public figure. But by evening the shoulders were bared and the neckline plunged, and she became an ultra-sentimental figure. The Italianate villas of the 1840's were externally as sedate and drab in colour as the costumes, but the interiors of the houses show the informality and easy mode of private living.

The 1850's were an age of high colour and expansive exhibitionism. Crinolines made their appearance and every lady became her own perambulator. The ballooning and inflated effect of these web-like structures was paralleled architecturally in the huge iron and glass Crystal Palace of 1851, the Palm House and Kew Gardens and the Paris Opera House.

Between 1860-1870 it was the age of technological overkill. There was an increased range of textiles and new machines to produce once rare materials allowed women to imitate high fashion at home. Dresses were overlaid with a variety of exotic trimmings, made easy with the invention of the sewing machine, and bustles were in fashion. Architecturally it was High Victorian Gothic with the use of patterned brickwork, fretwork and gables, and attention was paid to all sides of the structure.

By the late 1870's the bustle slid down to behind the knees and then moved to the ankles. There was a prevailing mood of restraint. The subsequent vertical line was made possible by the uncompromising sub-structure of a steel, bone and canvas corset. Architecturally the profile was also tall and smooth, bullet-like at the top and sweeping at bottom. The use of exposed cast ironwork produced the same structured effect as the corset.

The 1880's were opulent years. Bustles returned, larger than ever, and costumes were draped and enriched with decoration — we read of the upholstered beauties of the 1880's. The interiors of houses were similarly ornate and draped with heavy velvets and tassels, though colours for clothing and buildings were sombre — Venetian brown and plum were favourites. Toronto's Old City Hall with its heavy texturing and massive scale produces this same ponderous effect.

The 1890's were "La Belle Epoque". Renaissance shapes and textures were seen in fashions and white was frequently used. The bodice and sleeve received decoration but the skirt was simplified, and any detail appeared at the hemline. Architecturally, buildings were not augmented with any colour, and the upper profile was decorated in simple bands. The total effect was bland, and any attention was given to a suave detail.

And so the century ended on a calm note of simplicity. Dress designs copied from the pre-Raphaelite paintings pointed the way to a new freedom in costume, but it is to the gentlemen that we will give the last word. Essentially they had withdrawn from the world of fashion in the 19th century, and by the 1840's their total look had been simplified to a tailored uniform which was to continue for the next 100 years.

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HAMILTON-NIAGARA

We regret that there has been no news from this branch.

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HERITAGE CAMBRIDGE

Heritage Cambridge was very busy helping to celebrate anniversaries this year. Three engaged our attention. The oldest was the 150th anniversary of the naming of the town of Galt. Galt is now a part of the new city of Cambridge, but there is still much affection for the old name. It was in 1927 that John Galt visited the thriving small community of Shades Mills, and in his honor the name was changed to "Galt". John Galt had been a school mate of the Hon. William Dickson, the founder of the village. To mark this anniversary the Cambridge Central Library is having a display of historical pictures and documents. Heritage Cambridge will help with this.



The Galt Collegiate Institute celebrated its 125th anniversary on May 14th. It was felt that it would be a very good thing if Heritage Cambridge could add to its collection of Richard Brown drawings of old local buildings one of this historic old school. The Gore Mutual Insurance Company has generously agreed to sponsor such a drawing, and prints of it were sold at the reunion festivities. The proceeds will be shared by Heritage Cambridge and the G.C.I. Anniversary Committee.

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Dickson School

This is Centennial year for Dickson School, in the Galt district of Cambridge. This fine old stone building is a delight to the eye on its hill above the river. Heritage Cambridge has had a booklet printed about the school. The text is by Ben Rosebrugh, with some assistance from Gordon Couling. It is illustrated with pictures taken by Laverne Asmussen. We hope it pleased

all the former pupils who attended the centennial celebration.

May 28th is the day that Cambridge welcomed the ACO Council. We are delighted that the council meeting was in Cambridge this year. After the morning meeting at the Cambridge City Hall and luncheon at our oldest church building, Trinity Church, Heritage Cambridge invited council to join all our members in a little tour.

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Hasti-notes

Heritage Cambridge is entering the hasti-note business. We will soon have a selection of historical cards to offer the public. All our publications are taking a great deal of effort, but we feel they are worth it.

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Merchant's Improvement Committee

The merchants of Cambridge have recently formed a committee to plan improvements in the town districts of the city. As a symbol, they have chosen a device including a part of our old city hall, so we hope this indicates an awareness of old buildings in enhancing the atmosphere of the community.

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Award of Merit

Gordon Couling, former chairman of the Wellington County Branch of the ACO was one of twelve Guelph citizens to receive the Chamber of Commerce's annual Award of Merit which was presented by Governor General Jules Leger at a luncheon on May 14th. Professor Couling's award was in the category of 'Environment', and in relation to his efforts over the years to develop civic awareness of the unique qualities of Guelph's historic architecture.

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The University Women's Club of Guelph has set up a committee, chaired by Dr. Mabel Sanderson to develop a program for marking a series of the city's distinctive buildings with permanent cast aluminum plaques. The initial project plans to mark a number of the surviving residences of Guelph's first mayors. The project was initiated by a grant from the former Wellington County Branch of the ACO and further funds are being sought from Heritage Ontario and from Wintario.

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The Guelph Arts Council has played an active role during Guelph's sesquicentennial year in developing a broader concern for the historic

architecture of the city. With the Office of Continuing Education at the University of Guelph they sponsored a spring series of lectures by Professor G. Couling, "Old Guelph: Its People and Places". The series was oversubscribed and will be repeated during October and November on the campus of the University of Guelph. As a further project the Guelph Arts Council sponsored a series of four walking tours of specific districts within the city, which were conducted by Professor Couling. The series was over-subscribed two months in advance.

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At its annual meeting on June 6th the Guelph Arts Council will announce the winners of its first annual "Heritage Awards" which have been planned to 'honour individuals, groups, companies and governments who have made outstanding contributions to the preservation, restoration and development of heritage properties, or who have put "new life" into older buildings in the city of Guelph'. Public nominations have been sought. The award will be a bronze plaque, designed by Canadian sculptor, Frances Gage, suitable for mounting on an exterior or interior wall and bearing the words "Guelph Arts Council Heritage Award". The 1977 jury consists of Peter Stokes, restoration architect; Gordon Couling, architectural historian, and Norman Harrison, municipal planner.

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Recent lectures by Professor G. R. Couling (Multi-image slide presentations):

"Unique Features of Historic Architecture in Halton County" for the Esquesing Historical Society, on April 25th, at the Georgetown Public Library.

"Features of Stone Architecture in the Hamilton-Wentworth Region" for the McMaster Women's Club, at McMaster Medical Center on April 5th.

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Report on Guelph Urban History Conference

Professors talked to professors at the first Canadian Urban History Conference held at the University of Guelph, May 12-14. It was also the 150th anniversary of the founding of that city by John Galt, the Scottish novelist.

For the first time attention was focussed on an inter-disciplinary approach to the urbanization of cities as well as to the historical growth of particular Canadian cities and towns.

The participants, coming from universities

and colleges across Canada, presented detailed papers and criticisms on published and soon-to-be published materials of their colleagues. For once it was possible to hear papers on Urban Development in Quebec — the influence of the banks; American Metropolitanism and Canadian growth; the People of Hamilton West; Urban Planning in Alberta; Halifax as an Imperial Outpost, and Planning and Development in Whitehorse and Yellowknife.

It was also possible to meet authors of some of the most distinguished and controversial analytical papers in Canadian geography and history: Michael Katz, J. M. Careless, Paul-Andre Linteau, Hans Blumenfeld, Peter Goheen, Douglas McCalla, Paul Rutherford and Jacob Spelt. Speakers were not allowed to relax but were expected to defend their theses.

Gilbert Stelter and Terry Crowley, the professors organizing the Conference were sensitive to the intensity of the sessions and offered excellent opportunities for relaxation. A light supper at the Faculty Club on the first evening gave participants an opportunity to meet, and there was an architectural walking tour at lunch each day with Gordon Couling. The weather was beautiful.

For those who enjoy rabbit stew, lamb, salmon, asparagus, syllabub and rhubarb tart with the gaps filled by Madeira and jugged ale there was the John Galt banquet. Guests sat down in Creelman's Great Hall with candlelight and white linen to enjoy a dinner of the 1820's. The Macdonald Stewart Foundation helped pay the bill.

The guest speaker, H. J. Dyos, Leicester, who holds one of the few chairs in Urban History, offered an hour of conversation and visual diversity as tasty and satisfying as the dinner.

Publications of the papers will appear in that excellent volume, "Urban History Review", National Museum of Man, Ottawa, in October.

P.S. Our own Peter Stokes and Douglas Richardson with Alan Gowans and Alderwoman Margaret MacKinnon, gave an excellent presentation on "Preserving the Urban Past".

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Cambridge Branch A.C.O. Council Meeting

The meeting for June of the Council of ACO was held in the beautiful council chamber of the City Hall in Cambridge (Galt), fittingly presided over by Peter John Stokes who had also presided over the restoration of the City Hall in 1966.

Looking at it with its creator's eye he noted at once the absence of a large centre table around which the aldermen sat, a table specially built for the room at the time of the restoration, and noted too the absence of the Galt coat-of-arms also made for the council chamber at the time. The table was replaced by handsome old individual desks from the Town Hall of Hespeler when it was abandoned at the amalgamation of Galt, Preston and Hespeler into the new city of Cambridge, and the coat-of-arms no doubt came down at the same time as it could not represent the whole city. More desks were needed than were available, and some replicas were made, financed in part by a grant from the Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation.

Representatives were present from a number of branches of ACO, Heritage Cambridge of course, Hamilton, London, Port Hope, Toronto, and a new branch just a-borning in Brantford and about to have its first meeting, and from Waterloo Regional Heritage Foundation.

Mrs. Garland, editor-in-chief of Acorn, was first on the agenda and gave a lively report on the maddening frustrations of trying to meet a publication dead-line when promised contributions from the branches turned up late, or worse, not at all, leaving her in an impossible "bricks without straw" situation.

Probably the high point of the meeting was K. H. J. Clarke's report on his preliminary campaign for donations and corporate memberships to obtain money to shore up ACO's precarious financial situation. Mr. Clarke was most optimistic about future returns from his continuing campaign.

A.C.O.'s Advisory Committee is working on setting up better legislation and grant structures which now heavily favour new construction and do little to assist in preserving and improving worthy old buildings.

Communities are being made increasingly aware of the value and beauty of their old buildings by the house tours arranged by different branches of ACO and several of these coming up were reported. Hamilton is to have a Heritage Week, September 17th to 24th.

The annual meeting of ACO was to have been held next November in Toronto in Holy Trinity Church, but because of the recent fire damage to Holy Trinity another location for the annual meeting will have to be found and the Council would like to receive suggestions.

Acorn's editors met apart concurrently with the Council meeting and Mrs. Garland, who was in the chair, again made a plea for contributions

from the branches and asked that they not arrive all in a heap just at dead-line because it is too hard to handle them all at once, but to keep them on-going, and also, when branch news letters were sent in to have items of special interest circled so that the editor wouldn't be faced with the time consuming task of reading the whole thing in order to winnow the wheat from the chaff.

Following the meetings the members of Council were guests of the Board of Directors of Heritage Cambridge at Trinity Church where the church women had prepared a delicious lunch served at tables gay with flowers. After lunch many took advantage of the Rector's invitation to go in and see the beautiful old church, glowing that day with sunlight through its lovely stained glass windows.

For the afternoon a tour had been arranged for members only which began with a visit to Dickson Public School, this year celebrating its hundredth anniversary, where visitors were welcomed and shown through by some teachers and senior pupils wearing period dress.

The tour then visited three country homes, Dr. and Mrs. Duff Wilson's home in Ayr, the Rosses' home near Reidsville and finally Ben and Pat Rosebrugh's home outside Galt. The first two are lovely old homes, the third an interesting new house imaginatively built of material collected from old houses being demolished and with a mellow and authentic air of other days. Tea was served at the Rosebrugh's to conclude a pleasant and successful experiment in moving the ACO Council meeting out of Toronto. Repeated in another community it should give the branches a greater feeling of belonging to the parent body and the Council a deepened awareness of the people and activities beyond the big city.

K. E.

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A Successful Renovation

Homestead Antiques is housed in a charming old stone cottage in downtown Cambridge (Galt), an admirable example of a neglected but sound old stone building successfully restored and renovated to a new life.

It was built in 1842 by James Crozier who married his bride in the morning of the day on which they left homes and families in the Lowlands of Scotland and sailed for Canada. After a long and stormy voyage across the sea, and "a dreary journey jolting in wagons through the wild interior of the country they came to Galt, at that time a small Scottish settlement only

recently reclaimed from the virgin forest and containing a population probably of three or four hundred souls".

They lived for a time in a log cabin on the outskirts until his improved circumstances enabled him to build a house in the village, of the local field stone in the style of the cottages he knew so well in the Scottish Border.

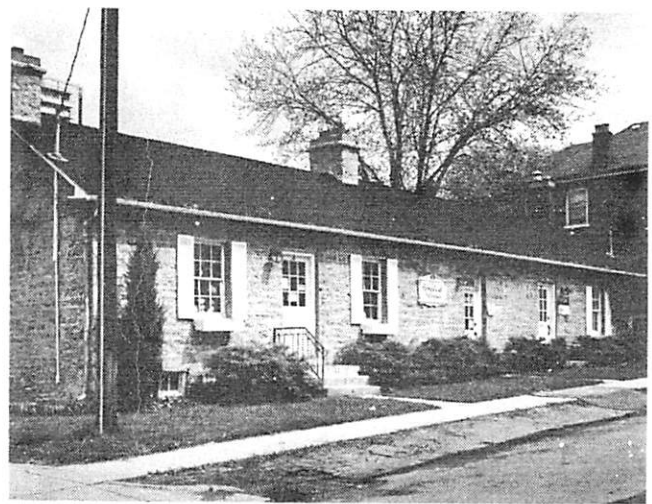
His son, John Beattie Crozier, was born in 1849, the youngest of five children of whom only he and an elder sister survived infancy. On a scholarship he became a pupil in Galt's famous "Tassie School", and in his early twenties graduated from University as a doctor, later to become internationally famous for his philosophical writings. From his autobiography, "My Inner Life," published in 1898, we may glean a little about the house in which he was probably born and certainly spent his childhood and youth, but it has to be mostly by deduction for his reminiscences are largely of the activities of his boyhood. He says nothing more directly descriptive of the house than, "a long low one-storied house making up in length for what it lost in height and with walls as thick as a citadel."

It has sometimes been said over the years that horses were housed indoors in the winter, and also that there was once an arch and drive-through midway of the long house. There is no internal evidence in Crozier's autobiography to support either story, and both seem improbable. James Crozier died when his son was only three and the son's autobiography makes it clear that the little family lived in much too straightened circumstances (he calls it penury) to have had either horse or carriage, nor could the presence of a horse have escaped mention in the man's recollections of his life as a boy. Also there was neither a "close" at the back nor any drive-through to another street.

There was a large, fenced vegetable garden, tended by Mrs. Crozier, where she carried on an on-going battle with a neighbour's marauding cow which came, Mrs. Crozier was sure, by malevolent design, on all stormy nights when wind, rain and creaking doors and hinges masked the sounds of its uncanny skill working the latch of the gate, and its depredations among the vegetables. We can perhaps visualize the fireplace of that day as the son writes of his mother hurriedly throwing on some clothes in the dark, seizing "the long, thick maple pole used to poke up the logwood fires" and sallying forth to belabour the intruder.

There was a woodshed, as part of the house, in which chickens were kept for a time, and again we have a picture of the life there as John speaks

of his mother "putting down her knitting and taking up the candle from the table" to go down the passage to investigate some unusual noise. As a small boy John Beattie Crozier developed a sudden passion for pigeons and rapidly, by trading and breeding, acquired a flock which he says became "two or three score or more." These he kept in the woodshed which suggests that his rather dour mother had considerable tolerance for a small boy's enthusiasms, but not so, for he adds, "my mother as usual protested my keeping the birds but as I knew that flying about on the rafters above they were as inaccessible to her as if they had been on mountain peaks, I paid no heed to her remonstrance." Of the woodshed itself he says, "it was under the same roof as our



CROZIER COTTAGES, Colborne Street

house itself but was only partially built in and was used principally for the bestowal of firewood. It had no ceiling so that from roof to floor only the great beams and rafters that rested on the stonework and stretched across it from side to side were to be seen."

At some point the house was divided into a double cottage and many families lived there from the time John Beattie Crozier left it at about age eighteen to begin medical studies at the University of Toronto, and his final departure for London after his graduation in his early twenties. Of those families no records remain, and it had fallen into a sad state of disrepair when almost a century later Mrs. Patricia Harris purchased it in 1969 and embarked on a formidable programme of restoration and renovation.

Ceilings were removed to disclose great beams and rafters bearing the adze marks of their hand hewing and finishing. A large fire-place of mellow toned brick with an alcove at each end was built across one end of the main room, its

mantel a big beam in harmony with the existing ones. By the removal of tons of stone from the two-foot thick wall, the narrow doorway into a bedroom one step down from the main room was enlarged to a wide opening and the small room thus made part of the whole. The floor was in too poor condition for repair and was replaced by a new one of wide boards that look as if they might well have been the original floor. A sink was removed from the end wall opposite the fireplace, a cupboard built into the alcove below, and glass shelves set in above to create a shining mirrored showcase for glass and china of earlier days.

The addition of shutters and window-boxes has added much charm to the exterior. The whole restoration has been done so skillfully that the atmosphere of the sturdy old house has been retained and the new innovations integrated into it look as if they had always been there. This is a most suitable background for the antiques which

look completely at home in one end of the long cottage while a dress shop, Le Papillon Boutique, anything but old-fashioned, has been operating comfortably in the other end for some years.

* * * * *

BRANT COUNTY

We regret that there has been no news from this branch.

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LONDON REGION

We regret that there has been no news from this branch.

* * * * *

HURON COUNTY

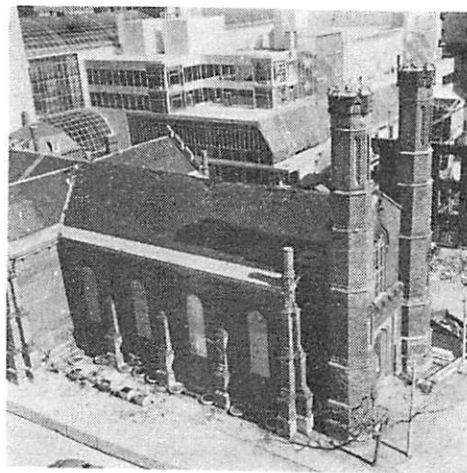
We regret that there has been no news from this branch, although according to the Globe and mail of July 5, they were celebrating the 150th birthday of Goderich with a house tour.

THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY

Trinity Square, Toronto

Not so long ago a glance from Yonge Street gave a glimpse into a downtown oasis, the odd tree and three old buildings seemingly part of the same family, indestructible in time, the Church of the Holy Trinity dominating this peaceful scene, the peace within a refuge from Toronto's din. Now two of the buildings squat snub-nosed against the flank of the new Eaton's giant, jostling somewhat uncomfortably for their new place in the sun. Holy Trinity remains unmoved on this new stage but wears a certain guise of pathos. After one hundred and thirty years of survival in a pit of urban commerce, the church has briefly come to light and almost became a torch for the first and last time.

Holy Trinity nearly burnt to the ground in the recent fire which almost raged out of control in downtown Toronto where the old Eaton's Annex and warehouses were being demolished. It was a taste of the 1904 conflagration that wiped out a large section of downtown Toronto's business core. Despite a fire-resistive slate roof the intense heat of the holocaust caused the roof boarding and timber to ignite. Many of the windows on the south side were also severely damaged. Smoke and water damage is very extensive.



CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY, 1847
(the new Eaton's Centre behind) showing roof holed by the recent fire.
PJS Photo

The cost of restoration, somewhere close to a quarter of a million dollars, is largely covered by insurance, but the Reverend Kenneth Maxted, vicar of the parish, says that some \$60,000 or more must be raised by public subscription to complete the work.

Holy Trinity with its fascinating and evolving history survives as a strong reminder of our past, lending a certain monumental grace to a scene

of devastation and a backdrop of indescribable modern complexity — the Eaton Centre. For the first time for over half a century the west end of the church may be seen from the City Hall Square and the upper podium. The old church, an anchor in a modern world of speedy change, is worthy

of your every support.

Regrettably the restoration of Holy Trinity will not be finished in time to allow ACO to hold its next Annual General Meeting there as planned. The ACO Council will change the venue and keep you posted.

NEWS FROM EAST TO WEST

from other associations

HERITAGE CANADA

The Central Ontario Regional Council meeting took place at Brighton on April 30. The meeting was held at the Proctor House Museum. Present were Dr. Margaret Angus, Director of Heritage Canada, Terrence Kruger, Secretary to the Board of Governors, Mr. William Brock, Lake Scugog Historical Society, Mrs. Marion Garland, Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, Port Hope Branch, Mr. Philip Lakas, Oshawa and District Historical Society, Miss Susan Van Camp and Mrs. Van Camp, East Durham Historical Society, Mrs. Marion Hagen and Mr. C. Haynes, The Society for the Restoration of Victoria Hall, Mr. Gordon Tobey, Save Our Heritage Organization, and Mr. Basel McMaster of the same.

The Proctor House was given to the Lower Trent Conservation Authority by the Proctor family. LIP and Wintario grants, and many hours of hard work by the steering committee made the restoration possible. Although not entirely finished inside, the house is used for meetings, art and craft shows, guided tours, dances, etc. Ski trails are maintained over the property and there is tobogganing for children.

After luncheon, Mr. McMaster took the delegates on a short tour of Brighton.

* * * * *

HERITAGE OTTAWA

Research from Ottawa Newspaper Archives

Heritage Ottawa is pleased to acknowledge that it has received a grant of funds from the "Young Canadians Program" to hire three students this summer to carry out research in Ottawa newspaper archives on topics related to architecture.

* * * * *

PETERBOROUGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

This Society produces a monthly bulletin except in June, July, August, and September. The

May issue has a story of the Restoration of the Keene Inn, Century Village. The address is, c/o Mrs. J. R. Ellis, Apt. #6, 380 Brock Street, Peterborough, Ontario K9H 2R5.

* * * * *

A query is noted — Do you know the location of any "stacked plank" houses in this area? These were often built c 1850-60 by laying 1½" planks flat, one on top of another, and then covered with plaster. They may later have been refaced with clapboard or other material. Please call Mrs. Kidd at 745-3505.

* * * * *

House Tour

The Peterborough Historical Society is planning a tour for October 1st. They will show six historic houses, including the Dr. Hutchinson stone house, built in 1836. They expect the restoration of this house to be fully completed by the day of the tour. Also included will be the stone Court House and St. John's Anglican Church, started in 1839. The tour will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and tickets will be available at any of the houses as well as at St. John's Church and the Court House. For more information write Mrs. Diane Brisley, 310 Rubidge St., Peterborough K9J 3P4. Tickets are \$5.00.

* * * * *

Queries

Mr. Donald Howson is looking for information about the first hospital in Peterborough by Mrs. Jane Nicholls. His phone, 743-2121.

* * * * *

Has anyone information about or a picture of, Mr. Alexander Elliott (1854-1924) who was connected with the development of Chemong Park? Contact Mrs. W. J. W. Gamble, 685 Walkerfield Ave., Peterborough, Ont.

* * * * *

Mrs. Gail Corbett wishes to establish contact with any living Barnardo children or with anyone who has been connected with Barnardo's in Canada. Her phone, 745-2874.

* * * * *

Strickland

Anyone with information on Mary Reid Strickland or Sam Strickland or their family, is asked to contact Enid Mallory of the Peterborough Historical Society at R.R. #2, Peterborough. Enid is writing a book on the pioneer life of Mary Strickland.

AROUND AND ABOUT: HAPPENINGS IN ONTARIO

ACTON

Demolition of Acton's 1881 Town Hall has been temporarily halted pending further study and commitment to its restoration — as a result of considerable protest from local citizens of the Halton Hills community at a 9 May, 1977 council meeting. The suggested removal of the old building was coupled originally with plans to expand quarters for the local Fire Department housed in a one storey addition to the rear. No serious structural problems were evident in the old building according to Alan Zeegen, engineering consultant for the addition — this despite twenty years of neglect. Fortunately old photographs of the building make restoration simpler.

ALEXANDRIA

The Town of Alexandria is studying ways and means of preserving the old mill on Mill Square including possible acquisition of the building. Estimates for the work are being prepared for the steering committee to explore sources of funds. One interesting suggestion was to turn the square into a pedestrian space — the first piazza in Glengarry.

An Ontario Heritage Foundation spokesman commented in late April that he was impressed with the way Alexandria was trying to preserve its old buildings — two banks (the Royal Bank of Canada and the Bank of Nova Scotia) are so acclaimed.

AMHERSTBURG

Two studies of old houses in the NIP area of the town provided useful information on possible attitudes towards "landmark" and "anchor" buildings comprising two of the most important categories for preservation. The "landmark" structure was essentially a valuable exterior, the interior a candidate for sympathetic renovation, while the "anchor" building was enhanced con-

siderably by suggested restoration of its original exterior detail including cladding.

However it appears a conflict — sociological as well as practical — may dog efforts to preserve the essential character of a community under



GEORGE STREET FRONT: RESTORED

NIP and RRAP programmes. Where minor defects could be suffered until new owners take over or where old materials can still perform it seems senseless to go by the book and create needless disturbance particularly to older people: sense and sensibility are more important than ever.

ANCASTER-DUNDAS

Peter Stokes will be giving a series of informal lectures entitled, "From Top to Bottom", similar to those offered to Port Hope and Niagara-on-the-Lake a few years ago. These lectures deal with practical hints in preservation as well as discussions of early local building, and are being planned for the coming fall.

AURORA

R.A.J. Phillips, Executive Director of Heritage Canada, paid a visit to this Yonge Street town in April to encourage its rejuvenation suggesting that funds could be available if local and provincial co-operation would be assured. Photographs on the full page spread in the local paper belie the possibilities such as the usual clutter of newspaper boxes in front of the vacant municipal building. Aurora get cracking!

AYLMER

A year ago we first reported the possible danger to Aylmer's 104 year old Town Hall, a delightful essay in the late Italianate style. Its excellent design, with a plain ground storey surmounted by a range of tall Florentine windows, (presumably lighting the usual town meeting hall on the second floor), richly articulated brickwork and bold cornice, makes it worthy of preservation for its architectural merit alone. The projecting entrance on the ground floor may be a slightly later addition, however, and appears to detract from the composition of the front.

Wilfrid Chalk of 90 St. Andrew Street heads the Save the Old Town Hall Committee and brought a petition of more than 1600 names in favour of preserving the building to the Town Council in late April. Demolition may have been averted temporarily, but the concern of the town is the cost of preservation plus continued use. Preservationists, we like to think, are enthusiastic, imaginative as well as demonstrative: we wish those in Aylmer well.

BARRIE

The City of Barrie has voted \$30,000 towards the preservation of the Old Firehall and tenders were being sought for the first phase of structural rehabilitation and improvement of the street front altered from the original design to suit later requirements of the Fire Department. The building is to become a cultural centre with small theatre, art gallery and meeting facilities ultimately, a noteworthy "seed" project for prospective downtown renewal in Barrie.

BRAMPTON

The Old Court House, Registry Office and Jail on Wellington Street East, with the existing museum and art gallery, are suggested as a regional cultural centre in a submission being made by the Peel Historical Society, Regional

Museum and Art Gallery directors to the authorities concerned. These old buildings have new uses.

BRANTFORD

Historic App's Mill (1840), some four miles west of Brantford, now owned by the Grand River Conservation Authority, is in danger of being lost unless funds come from the Brantford area and the Grand Valley Conservation Foundation (the independent non-profit organization which raises funds for facilities on GRCA lands). Arresting decay, according to Dr. Joseph Connell in his address to the Rotary Club of Brantford, would cost \$1,000, preservation in its present state \$10,000 and total restoration \$30,000.

BRIGHTON

SOHO (The Save Our Heritage Organization) in Brighton has received a Canada Works programme grant of \$5,160 for work on the Proctor House Museum, scene of Heritage Canada's regional meeting last May. Ontario's Ministry of Culture and Recreation also provided \$5,000 for the newly established museum.

BROCKVILLE

This eastern Ontario city moves ahead with designations of historic buildings, not without some careful re-examination and argument in some cases.

Old Victoria School (1855), once considered for a civic museum, now that this function is served by a fine old stone house, is being suggested for a counties (Leeds and Grenville) administrative centre. Such a use would preserve the building ("for the historic and architectural delight it is"), the playground space providing much needed parking, while the present counties building can take care of much needed extra space for the courts and their administration.

BRUSSELS

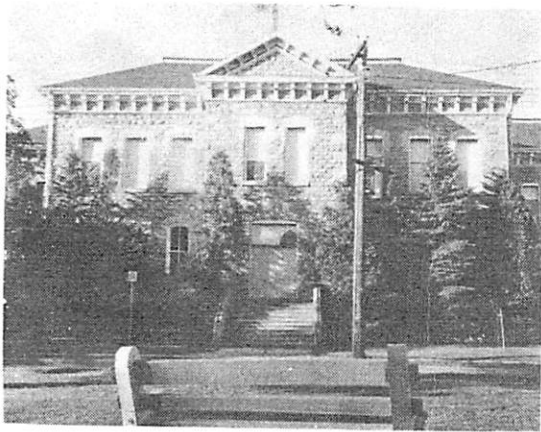
The frame mill built by William Vanstone in 1860 stood in this Huron County village some 25 miles east of Goderich until destroyed by fire in 1911 to be replaced by a concrete structure (erected by John Logan 1914-1915); an early example of this material still stands.

The Maitland Valley Conservation Authority through its Chairman, Lorne Murray, considered the mills of the valley important to preserve and was seeking ideas and support for their continued use and adaptation this last spring. Brussels residents apparently want the mill preserved, but

wished to have more time to consider protests for its continued use learning of possible expense involved in rehabilitation.

CAMBRIDGE

The old Preston Public School is a handsome late Victorian two storey stone building a block behind the main street. The older section originally built in 1889 faces a small park opening on to the main street, but now the building cannot be seen for the trees. Subsequent enlargement to double its size following the design of the original



PRESTON PUBLIC SCHOOL, 1889
The older section viewed from the park. PJS Photo

part makes an impressive range of characteristic local building simply but boldly detailed and still with years of practical usefulness. More recently a kindergarten structure was added at the south-west corner of the site, then a new single storey school building in brown brick set behind this. Calls for removal of the old school are being opposed: an CRB hearing is set to consider the matter on 28 July, 1977.

CHATHAM

The Woodstock Industrial Institute (J.G. Taylor Community Centre) was applying for a grant from the Ontario Heritage Foundation to restore its 1873 building and improve the site.

COLBORNE

This village east of Cobourg looks forward to a secondary plan under study allowing a population growth from the current 1,500 to 25,000 in the next quarter century. Part of the study will attempt to identify buildings or areas significant architecturally or historically. A glance at the atlas of the 1870's reveals that Colborne was an extensive layout of "surveys", some filled in only

very recently.

But the principal commercial centre was generously laid out by Keeler, whose house, remarkably like the Barnum House in nearby Grafton, still stands behind as the focal point at the head of a street in the middle of the shopping area. Keeler was responsible for the broad main street so remarkable in the community and the adjacent market square, now a park, which presently encroaches on the side street so that access from the north has a view into a charming green space.

CORNWALL

An early building, of which this eastern Ontario city contains so few because of many drastic fires, is likely to be torn down in an urban renewal scheme. The Dr. Dickinson House standing at the north-west corner of Pitt and Third Streets, probably built about 1807, is the latest victim.

Not content with eradicating its ancient heritage, Cornwall is even anxious to eliminate buildings which speak of more recent times. Despite suggestions by Ron Thom, the noted architect of theatres and other important buildings, that the structure could serve a useful purpose, the city wishes to demolish the Capitol, opened in 1928 and noted as an excellent example of the cinema genre.

Cornwall needs to take some hard second looks at its sad reflection in the little that remains. However, one break in the cloud — the City of Cornwall has reaffirmed its interest in maintaining Inverarden, John McDonald's house of 1816 on the eastern outskirts now ready to be restored after much painstaking study including archaeology of the grounds being done this summer under Parks Canada.

DUNDAS

A report to the LACAC by the Advisory Board of the ACO on two important blocks of the downtown core stressing the need for the preservation of the older structures and the possibilities of compatible infilling to maintain continuity was followed by similar support later during an evening with Ann Falkner, executive secretary of APT (and author of the recently published book, *Without our Past*), Jack Diamond, noted architect, and Douglas Koch representing the Ontario Heritage Foundation. The Dundas Heritage Association and POD (Preserve Old Dundas) sponsored the meeting.

Further investigations by geography students

from McMaster are leading to mapping by streets of typical building detail, one way to draw attention to the variety of material available which should also corroborate development patterns in this historic town.

The historic stone house Foxbar was being considered by the Rygiel Children's Home as a centre for some 20 severely retarded children, requiring a zoning exemption during such occupancy.

EDEN

Alan Veitch, great-great-grandson of Robert Cook, builder of a two storey adobe house in this community about twenty-five miles east of St. Thomas, is renovating the 140 year old family home. Mud block houses occur around Toronto too — one of the most notable is the Helliwell House of c. 1838 in the Don Valley at Todmorden Mills.

ELORA

An OMB hearing on the bridge controversy in which a place of great natural beauty, namely the Elora Gorge, was threatened by the intrusion of a modern road crossing occupied a full week in mid-July and is still unfinished. The hearing will resume early in the Fall.

Study and comment continues on the case of the West Montrose dam proposed by the Grand River Conservation Authority and more costly though less destructive, environmentally speaking, alternatives are being brought to light.

EXETER

Tenders for preservation of the Town Hall were called in May, 1977.

GANANOQUE

Dr. Keith Mabee has stimulated action to preserve the 1903 clock tower (also originally serving as a fire hose drying tower), a noted landmark on the Market Square.

Alma Villa, that fantastic Italianate stone pile built 1855-59 by the local merchant prince, Daniel Freeman Britton, was up for sale earlier this year, sans antiques. Though shorn of some of its external splendour the large roof lantern commanding breathtaking views of the St. Lawrence still marks this notable architectural piece in the east end of the town.

Gananoque Town Hall built in 1831 as the house of John McDonald, merchant, and deeded to the town in 1911, about to undergo renovation according to Jennifer McKendry of Kingston, is likely to have much of its original fine detailing brought to light.

GRIMSBY

The 1892 station on the main Honeymoon Line of the CNR has suddenly taken on a new lease on life by its imaginative conversion to the Village Depot, a complex of 12 year-round shops, 20 summer kiosks and two restaurants. The picturesque station itself, a romantic board and batten building with chateau-like tower has recently been cheerfully painted (in contrast to Railway Drab or Sombre Victorian) and augmented with old freight cars and a caboose, slightly too bright to be a restoration but very attractive nevertheless. Harold Jarvis, Niagara Peninsula realtor, is the enterprising culprit.

(We believe an even earlier building behind, more recently a freight shed, may have been the original Great Western station on this line).

GUTHRIE

Residents of this village in Oro Township east of Barrie, are preserving the 1888 one room school as a local meeting hall.

HAMILTON

A fire damaged the privately-owned eastern quarter of Sandyford Place, the 1857 stone terrace on Duke Street which was the first subject of a Conservation Review Board hearing under Bill 176, the Ontario Heritage Act. The other three quarters are being prepared by the City, which purchased the property, for re-sale to interested owners for eventual preservation. Later rear wings have been removed already. Negotiations for acquisition of the recently damaged section are underway.

KENORA

The old Post Office, owned by the town, is to be designated and funds are to be sought for its renovation, for the Lake of the Woods Museum on the ground floor and to provide office space upstairs.

KINGSTON

A heritage Conservation District Study in the downtown Market Square area is to augment previous designations in the area. Lily Inglis, architect, is to undertake the investigation aided by a \$3,000 grant from the Ontario Heritage Foundation.

Jennifer McKendry, in one of her frequent contributions to the Whig Standard, comments on the sad mutilation often occurring to Kingston's

old frame buildings. Such is also the case sometimes with the brick examples in the "Stone City": perhaps this is part of the price of oversimplifying the message of conservation in far deeper penetration and quicker assimilation.

The Grand Theatre is undergoing further improvements including a new lighting system following a second campaign for funds to enhance the last project completed in 1966.

LINDSAY

A photographic survey of pre-1900 buildings in Victoria County has been covered by a \$10,200 LIP grant. The net, cast wide, has included the well known examples of the Beehive as well as an octagonal house in Lindsay itself.

LOST VILLAGES:

East Williamsburg, Aultsville, Wales, Dickinson's Landing, Farran's Point, Moulinette, Mille Roches.

These communities were destroyed by the St. Lawrence Seaway in the 1950's and well does the writer remember these villages and hamlets roughly five to seven miles apart between Morrisburg and Cornwall. While Iroquois and Morrisburg lost their early main streets, the replacements facing north-west to the Highway and away from the community, these other settlements with their simple, direct patterns of modified grid-iron were amalgamated into villages of irritating complexity like Ingleside or the vermiform plan of Long Sault. Now the Lost Villages Historical Society may be able to recall the sense of a real past and add yet another dimension to the re-creation of Upper Canada Village.

LONDON

Though London has its place elsewhere, we draw attention to a sad omission by Margaret Smith in the Free Press of 7 May, 1977 in her reference to guide books — nowhere does she allude to the ACO London Region Branch efforts on walking tours of local sites and historic buildings. While references made are principally to the deficiencies of "out-of-town" productions and coverage of the usual commercial interests, surely the balance could be redressed by the well-researched local publication.

MILTON

Early in May the Town of Milton was considering the implications of building designation under the Ontario Heritage Act and the oft-repeated misconception was voiced, namely that you cannot destroy or add to a designated building. We know the regrettable limitations of the

Act which only has a delaying action on demolitions, but this does permit time for review of the problem. Furthermore, additions or changes are referred for council decision, which does add a burden, but with a LACAC in force, recommendations and comments can be sought.

When will these bugaboos be laid to rest?

MITCHELL

An office building will be created from the former Advocate building c. 1863 on Main Street, the work being undertaken by Stacey Brothers to preserve the essential character of the building externally.

NIAGARA FALLS

Old St. John's Church (1825) in Stamford and its history have been recorded by Alice Alison, architect and well-known preservationist, with a view to the restoration of this long vacant and almost abandoned historic building.

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE

Study of the downtown commercial core about Queen Street to underwrite the declaration of an Historic Conservation District to control development and redevelopment of the central area of this notable community seems too little if not too late. Surely the whole old Town of Niagara is a conservation district extremely sensitive to misguided development. Sad mutilation has already been witnessed in the central area and a current rash of historical abortions emphasizes the need for careful review and better management of this resource.

OAKVILLE

The Oakville House, a building originating in 1828 and situated on the main street (Lakeshore Road, formerly Colborne Street) is undergoing preservation by motel owner Nicholas Parkovich with the stimulus of the LACAC and a small grant from the Ontario Heritage Foundation.

The Town of Oakville is to be congratulated on its acquisition of the Chisholm Estate, a 4½ acre property flanking the harbour and Oakville Creek with magnificent landscaped grounds and two historic buildings on the site — the old Customs House and the Chisholm House.

Fate of the Old Stone Granary is still uncertain. The Toronto Branch of ACO wrote to the Town of Oakville seeking its preservation and was assured in reply that all in the Town's power was being done towards this.

ODESSA

Fate of Babcock's Mill near here is not known,

but the 121 year old lumber mill with its stone building and 12 acre lot is to become one of Ernest-town's parks.

The old Stage Coach Inn, long a landmark on Odessa's main street has been torn down. Much altered over the years, yet stated to date from 1821, the last metamorphosis gave little indication of its original design even though the two storey verandah was an old-fashioned feature, its detail, like the curious shed roof, was late Victorian. Maybe it was the last stage coach inn to be used (if you count Voyageur-Colonial as "coach"), it certainly is not the last to survive. We wonder about the Fryfogel Inn at Shakespeare, or the Blue Moon at Petersburg or Marsh's Tavern near Welcome to mention only three.

One heartening change: the delightful stone building opposite the Stage Coach Inn, for many months grimy and its windows shattered has now a sympathetic owner who has restored the exterior to its pristine charm.

ORILLIA

The first phase of the Opera House preservation is underway, and The Orillia Opera House Foundation has already been able to pay the City back \$10,000 towards the outlay on the work. The cost of the project will be partly covered by a Wintario grant.

A local late 19th century feed mill, once a producer of fine flour, still stands little changed, except for newer metal siding and boarded windows, from the view in a c. 1900 photograph.

OSGOODE

A stone ruin, all that remains of a 117 year old farmhouse near Metcalfe, can finally be restored — or largely reconstructed — after ten months of battling to obtain a severance by the owner of the property, John Crichton, which the OMB finally supported.

PAISLEY

Success on the first phase of improvement to Paisley's main street under Dr. Owen Scott of Guelph prompted a continuation of the project in the commercial area. B. Napier Simpson Jr., restoration architect, has also been guiding refurbishing of the old Town Hall. Paisley carries on despite the disastrous flood last winter.

PARIS

Penmarvian, is the house originally built by Hiram Capron, the founder of Paris, in the late 1840's and considerably "improved" (and no mistake!) by John Penman, a local and leading industrialist. The late Victorian chateau style embellishments, possibly inspired by Vanderbilt

tendencies, are still there. The house owned by the Presbyterian Church in Canada, at one time a home for retired ministers and eventually a house for the aged was closed in 1970. Plans to renovate the building to continue its use as a home for the aged were thwarted. The asking price for house, carriage house, gardener's cottage and twelve acres overlooking the Grand River was a mere bagatelle (at \$225,000) compared to current Niagara-on-the-Lake figures.

PETERBOROUGH

The Hutchison House restoration has entered a second phase covering the work on the building. Most of this is to be complete by the end of August.

Reservations about the designation of the Court House were voiced, mainly, as usual, concerns about restrictions on changes: again the idea of time for review and a need for guidance should be stressed.

PONTYPOOL

The many people in the Pontypool area who have expressed interest in saving the old C.P.R. station are to be commended for their concern for its preservation. Unfortunately, this building which must evoke many fond memories, has little else to recommend saving it. Architecturally it is not very significant, and when removed from its present location by the tracks, as it must be if it is to be saved, it would hardly be recognizable as a railroad station. A new use would have to be found for it, and such adaptation would be costly and would very likely destroy its original character entirely. Its structural condition presents problems both for moving the building and its eventual rehabilitation. All in all, Pontypool station is not a very likely candidate for preservation and it is unfortunate that so much interest is being given to such a cause when every day more significant and more useful historic buildings are being pulled down without a word of support. Perhaps the time has come when the pendulum should swing from the extreme of all-out wholesale preservation to a more discriminating approach.

Contributed

PORT BURWELL

This village has already renovated the old lighthouse and is seeking support for developing it as a tourist site from Heritage Canada.

PRESCOTT

Work on the Forwarders' Building (1810) on Water Street is progressing despite much higher

costs than originally envisaged by the Prescott Museum Board. The building served as a cargo warehouse for goods transhipped through the Galops Rapids.

RENFREW

The frame building formerly the Renfrew Hotel was used by shantymen, farmers and pioneers coming into the region via the Opeongo Road from c. 1852 until it closed in the later 19th century after the coming of the railway in 1873 substantially affected local traffic. It has been noted as a heritage building.

ST. CATHARINES

The oldest Ontario school building, the W. J. Robertson School opened in 1829 as the Grantham Academy and since much altered and extended is shortly to close as school enrollment drops. Another use is being sought for the building, on the edge of the downtown business district.

Fate of the interesting complex of early 19th century buildings below Rodman Hall (the Art Gallery) and including the Shickluna House, home of the famous shipbuilder and Niagara area entrepreneur, is uncertain as the city seems reluctant to declare this small, and unique, Historic Conservation District,

SCARBOROUGH

The Neilson House (built by McHenry in 1864) a handsome fieldstone structure with cut stone groins and architraves may become the headquarters of the Malvern Residents' Association.

Now that the Guild Inn has been sold by Spencer Clark, the disposition of his wonderful collection of follies comprising fragments of Toronto's illustrious old buildings wrecked in past years is in doubt. Perhaps these could adorn the forecourt of the Marine Museum at old Stanley Barracks where the Toronto Historical Board holds sway.

SWEABURG

The old General Store c. 1850 has been removed to a new private site on a farm by Mr. Jakeman, a maple syrup farmer producer near this Woodstock area community.

TEESWATER

The 1896 two storey frame Architectural Society Exhibition Hall in this southern Bruce County community had to be moved to free access to the main entrance of the new arena. After the Society's spending more than \$5,000 on the move, help for continuing the work will probably be sought from the Ontario Heritage Foundation.

TORONTO

504 Jarvis Street, a large red sandstone house built by George Horace Gooderham in 1891, in a version of Richardsonian Romanesque, was later the home of the Frankel family. The Toronto Historical Board placed a plaque on the building and the owner awaits someone sympathetic to lease the old house.

The 1892 Gooderham Building (The Flatiron at Wellington and Front Streets is protected by a façade easement or protective covenant on the exterior held by the Ontario Heritage Foundation. Carefully cleaned by detergent chemicals some years ago the finely executed masonry of pressed brick is still in excellent condition. The owner since 1973 has been Wharfside Properties Limited, also involved in other buildings in Ontario.

Opening of the restored South building of the St. Lawrence Market, which incorporates a part of the first City Hall of 1844 designed by Henry Bower Lane, took place on 4 June, 1977, Mayor Crombie officiating.

Adelaide Court or Cour Adelaide are now raising funds for the proposed conversion of their new theatre quarters from the old York County Building (1852, by Cumberland and Storm) on Adelaide Street East.

UDORA

Local citizens' interest in this northern York County community and support from organizations in neighbouring areas to save the Udora Feed Mill have led to the formation of a committee to study the building's preservation. Ways and means, and ideas for the mill's future use, will be considered with a view to the cooperation of the Ontario Heritage Foundation in the project.

WATERLOO

Peter Stokes is giving a course of lectures at the School of Architecture, University of Waterloo.

WILLIAMSTOWN

This historic Glengarry community saw the 190th anniversary of St. Andrew's United Church on 12 June last, held in the stone building built in 1812 to replace the original log church. Reminders of the village's early history include the en colombage (Red River frame) house of Sir John Johnson, built in the 1780's, the Thompson-Bethune House and many connections with the North-West Company, the fur trading enterprise commemorated in the museum housed in the old school of c. 1860.

WOODSTOCK

Besides designation of significant buildings in the city such as the Italianate house of Thomas H. Parker and the 1895 splendour of T. L. "Carbide" Willson, a study is now under way to determine the future of the Court House Square sponsored by Oxford County. This latest move, lauded by Dr. Anthony Adamson, Ontario Herit-

age Foundation director and a founder of ACO, should evolve some imaginative schemes for re-use of the old jail, which was noted is one of the finest in Ontario, and the possible renovation of the old county building.

Gleaned mostly from the press clipping files of the Ontario Heritage Foundation with thanks — The Contributing Editor

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

New Life for Old Buildings — Proceeding of the Symposium at Kingston, Ontario, 9, 10, 11 September, 1976. Sponsored by Frontenac Historic Foundation, Heritage Canada, Ontario Heritage Foundation.

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Metroplan, Management of Historical Resources — Prepared by James Weller, The Municipality of Metropolitan Toronto Planning Department, March, 1975, price \$2.00.

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Revolving Funds for Historic Preservation, by Arthur Ziegler, Leopold Adler, Walter Kidney, Ober Park Inc. (Pittsburgh) 1975, \$4.95.

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Without A Past — A Handbook for the Preservation of Canada's Architectural Heritage by

Ann Falkner (Illus.) 1976, \$5.00. University of Toronto Press.

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The Mill, by William Fox, Bill Brooks, and Janice Tyrwhitt. Published by McClelland and Stewart.

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A History of Jarvis, by Ron Awde. A history of a village, its people, and sketches of its old buildings, near Port Dover. Privately printed.

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A History of Guelph 1827-1927 by Les A. Johnson will come out this summer. Those who wish a copy should write Guelph History Foundation, P.O. Box 1502, Guelph. The cost is \$12.50 plus \$1.50 postage.

COMING EVENTS

Association for Preservation Technology — Annual General Meeting. 28th September to 1st October, at Cleveland, Ohio. For further information write to Ann Falkner, Executive Secre-

tary, Box 2487, Station D, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5W6.

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Victoria Hall, Cobourg, Ontario — First opening of Victoria Hall, 10th September, after recent Phase 2 renovations.

STOP PRESS

The following communities do not seem to be taking advantage of the Heritage Act, and we wonder why. Niagara-on-the Lake, (though formed LACAC has not been active for several months causing some consternation), Port Hope, Cobourg, Guelph, Belleville, Picton, Gananoque, Pembroke, Charlottenburgh Township, (including Williamstown and Martintown), Victoria, Lindsay, Augusta Township, L'Orignal, Sarnia, Kitchener, St. Thomas, East York and York in Metropolitan Toronto, Midland, Orillia,

Collingwood, North Bay, communities on Manitoulin Island. There are others.

However, according to Stephen A. Otto, Executive Director of Heritage Conservation Division, Ontario Heritage Foundation, the LACAC's account for communities having almost 80% of Ontario's population and "it's people who tear buildings down."

It so happens that a great deal of our important heritage survives in less populous and prosperous areas where people still live.

P.J.S.

Many thanks to Mrs. Kathleen Courtney for typing the rough drafts. It is greatly appreciated by the editor.

M.W.G.

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